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cheaper class of nurses for those who cannot afford to pay our price, for if they need a nurse they need the best that can be had. These people do not send for a nurse until something serious is the matter, and if we are at liberty to go we should do our work for what they can pay. If we, by so doing, lower our standard, then so does a doctor lower his standard when he charges below his regular rates. Untrained or half-trained nurses should not be encouraged unless they have proven their ability to carry out the physician's orders. When we take into account the long days and nights during which we give all our thoughts and strength to the sick, we may say we are never paid in full, even though we receive twenty-five dollars a week.

I have recently located in a small town where I know I shall many times have to go below my usual fee, but these same people, I am sure, will appreciate what I do, and I shall be satisfied if I can feel that I really have helped them.

It is, after all, our life, work, and conduct that go to raise our standard, not the question of salary alone.

T. E.

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#### NURSING CONDITIONS IN GENERAL

DEAR EDITOR: A nurse in Idaho was asked what nursing conditions there are. Her reply would fit in as a description of nursing conditions in many another place; our problems are much the same all over the country.

"This is a small place and we know what the doctor and the patient and the patients' friends say about the nurses. We hear many things that we would rather not hear. But most of the faults of the nurses are faults of the woman and not faults of the training.

"We have two training-schools here. It seems to be difficult to get probationers and those in charge seem to be glad to get any one.

"If nurses were better paid and had shorter hours, do you think a better class of women would take up nursing? I certainly do not feel proud of many who are in or are just entering the profession."

W.

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#### "CONTACT INFECTION"

DEAR EDITOR: I have recently seen two articles which have a bearing on the subject of "contact infection."

In the first, a physician who was a member of the commission sent

to investigate the causes of the typhoid epidemics in the army during the recent war, writes that he went south feeling sure he would find the water supply at the bottom of the trouble, and he returned feeling equally convinced that the chief cause was contact infection. He found that at Jacksonville the water supply of the camp was the same as that used in the city, but that while typhoid was raging in the camp, there were only a few scattered cases in the city. He says it is a well-known fact that a regiment can carry such an epidemic with it from one location to another, and that it cannot be controlled until all the regiment property, tents, bedding, wearing apparel, and utensils have been destroyed or thoroughly disinfected.

The second article, also by a doctor, in referring to the same army epidemics, gave as the writer's opinion that infection was carried about in camp by flies.

D.

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### THE UBIQUITOUS FLY

DEAR EDITOR: Apropos of the recent regrettable disclosures concerning the true character of our former friend, the fly, may I offer this amended version of a familiar nursery rhyme?

Baby bye, there's a fly,  
 Let us shun it, you and I;  
 How he crawls, on the walls,  
 Where the stable refuse falls.  
 I believe with those six legs  
 He'll be wading next in eggs.  
 There he goes, on soiled toes,  
 Tickling baby's nose.

W.



LINES written in the album of Judge L., after a spirited discussion with his friend on the "future state":

Farewell—  
 And if on earth we ne'er shall meet  
 I'll look for you among the wheat.  
 But if you chance among the tare,  
 Don't look for *me*. I'll not be there.